

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

Item 3 (1) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: environmental-economic accounting

Document E/CN.3/2022/16 – Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

<i>Statement provided by:</i> AUSTRIA	
<i>Statement:</i> Statistics Austria takes note of the proposed programme. We welcome the engagement of the Committee since the alignment of the classifications with the needs of the environmental accounting is crucial for the quality of the accounts. We take note and welcome the efforts in the engagement of national statistical offices in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the development of the monitoring framework in the lead up to the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Statistics Austria welcomes the efforts in the global implementation strategy for the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting and notes that it is currently preparing its implementation in Austria. Statistics Austria thanks for the guidelines for Biophysical Modeling. They will be considered in the preparation of the Ecosystem Accounting in Austria. Statistics Austria is supporting the progress made in finalizing the “Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism”. It should be pointed out that the finalization of the framework as a worldwide recognized and accepted statistical standard marks a milestone, receiving worldwide harmonized and comparable data related to the sustainability of tourism. It will strengthen the importance and value of tourism statistics being a reliable decision basis for tourism policy and alongside already existing frameworks related to Tourism Statistics and Tourism Satellite Accounts, a further step with regard to a tourism statistical standard reflecting the multidimensional character of tourism. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic showed the vulnerability of tourism with regard to the economic, environmental and social sustainability; the recovery of tourism requires respective policy action considering all aspects based on fact-oriented data produced in accordance with international statistical standards. According to the UN, the “World Tourism Organization is recognized as the appropriate organization to collect, to analyze, to publish, to standardize and to improve the statistics of tourism, and to promote the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the United Nations system”. Developing and governing tourism statistical standards – in collaboration with the member states - belongs to the essential work of the organization. Setting the methodological standards for “Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism” will place UNWTO as the worldwide leading organization and the forerunner in that respect.	
<i>Submitted on:</i>	2/17/2022